1	2
Rajasthan	43.161
Sikkim	1.183
Tamil Nadu	105.028
Tripura	2.607
Uttar Pradesh	106.810
Uttarakhand	15.500
West Bengal	53.760
All India	1047.726

Impact of strike

811. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the officers of the Oil companies went on strike in January, 09 thus paralyzing life in the country by blocking oil and gas supplies;

(b) whether it is also a (fact that the work at the oil refineries was seriously affected; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons that Government did not take any action for a number of days in ensuring sufficient supplies of oil etc. and dealing with the striking officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. A section of Officers of Central Public Sector Oil Companies had gone on strike from 7th to 9th January, 2009 in regard to certain issues of pay revision.

(b) Yes, Sir. Work at some of the Oil Refineries was affected by the strike.

(c) During the strike period stock and supply position of petroleum products were constantly monitored to ensure adequate availability of the same throughout the country.

Effect of the fall in the price of international crude

812. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total import of crude into the country after the steep fall in their prices both in quantity and value in foreign exchange;

(b) the overall impact on the performance of the public sector oil companies due to the steep fall in prices;

(c) whether Government plans to stockpile crude like China which has made huge infrastructure to stock crude which is costing lower in the markets;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) International price of crude oil started declining from August, 2008. The details of total import of crude oil into the country since then upto December 2008, both in quantity and value terms, are as under:-

Month	Quantity (TMT)	Value in (US$ Million)
August, 2008	10877	9410
September, 2008	10264	7192
October, 2008	11365	5998
November, 2008	9877	3520
December, 2008	10465	3029

TMT - Thousand Metric Tonnes US$ - US dollars

(b) While the fall in international oil prices has provided some relief to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) as their import costs have come down, the Companies have also suffered huge inventory losses, adversely affecting their refining margins and profitability. The adverse impact is reflected in three OMCs *viz.* Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., having a combined loss of Rs. 11,094 crore during April-December, 2008.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. In September 2005, the Government has decided to set up a Strategic Crude Oil Reserve of 5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) capacity at 3 locations *viz.*, Vizag (1.0 MMT), Mangalore (1.5 MMT) and Padur, Udipi (2.5 MMT) through Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), which is a 100% subsidiary of Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB). Crude oil from the Strategic Reserves will be released by a Government-appointed High Power Committee, to deal with any short-term disruptions in crude oil supplies due to natural calamity or any unforeseen global event like war etc.

Development of adventure tourism in Himachal Pradesh

813. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased state:

(a) the financial assistance allocated to Himachal Pradesh during the year 2007-08, 2008-09 for procurement of skiing, watersports, mountaineering and trekking equipments to develop adventure tourism in the State;

(b) the amount out of allocation has been spent to achieve the goal;

(c) whether it is a fact that fund released to develop adventure tourism in the State have been diverted to other activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?